

The Spina Bifida Healthcare Program

What is the Spina Bifida Healthcare Program?

The Spina Bifida Healthcare Program is a federal health benefit program administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs for birth children of Vietnam veterans diagnosed with Spina Bifida. The Spina Bifida Program is a Fee for Service (indemnity plan) program. The Spina Bifida Program provides reimbursement for all conditions associated with spina bifida except spina bifida occulta.

Who is eligible for the Spina Bifida Healthcare Program?

Children with spina bifida whose parent is a Vietnam veteran, are eligible for the Spina Bifida Program. There is no age limit on benefits for this program.

How do I enroll in the Spina Bifida Healthcare Program?

To be eligible for the Spina Bifida Healthcare Program, eligibility must first be established for a monetary award under the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA). VA Regional Offices make the determination regarding that entitlement. Once a monetary award is made by the VBA, the Health Administration Center is provided that information by VBA and enrollment in the Spina Bifida Healthcare Program is automatic.

Is preauthorization required for services?

Preauthorization is required for the following services:

- dental services,
- durable medical equipment,
- home care,
- mental health services,
- organ transplants,
- orthotics,
- prosthetics,
- rehabilitative services,
- respite care,
- substance abuse treatment,
- training of family members,
- travel (other than mileage for local travel).

How do I request preauthorization?

Requests may be made by fax (303-331-7807) or in writing to the VA Health Administration Center, P.O. Box 65025, Denver, CO 80206-9025. If the preauthorization relates to a medical service or supply, the medical provider should submit the request.

What does the Spina Bifida Healthcare Program pay for services?

In most cases, the Spina Bifida Healthcare Program pays equivalent MEDICARE rates. There are no co-pays or deductible for beneficiaries, Spina Bifida Healthcare Program pays 100% of the allowable charge.

How quickly does the Spina Bifida Healthcare Program pay claims?

Normally, 95 percent of claims for services are paid within 30 days of receipt.

How do I get more information?

- Check our web site at www.va.gov/hac, select Spina Bifida
- Write us at P.O. Box 65025, Denver, CO 80206-9025
- E-mail us at hac.inq@med.va.gov
- Call 1-888-820-1756, Monday-Friday from 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM and 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM Eastern Time.